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FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 396, March 14, 4 p.m.

Following is round up official party reactions to popular consultation March 12:

PSC National Committee issues order of day outlining that 7 provinces out of 9 and 21 electoral districts out of 30 pronounced themselves in favor of King's return and that 740,000 affirmative ballots were received above total obtained by PSC in election June 26, 1949, thus proving that "an important majority" had been derived from all national parties in all regions of country favoring Sovereign's return. Order of day expresses hope that citizens of all parties, irrespective of former opinions on royal question, should loyally accept will of country in support of national reconciliation.

Although ardent pro-Leopold senators Nothomb and Dolordot call for immediate convocation of National Assembly to revoke law of July 19, 1945, PSC order of day is more discreet, concluding "it has confidence that PSC ministers and parliamentary groups will make without delay decisions permitting United Chambers, pursuant to law of July 19, 1945, to draw logical conclusions which flow from "popular consultation".

Steering committee of Socialist Party issues order of day emphasizing that popular consultations shows Leopold did not obtain half of vote in 2 regions out of 3 and that he is not capable of creating union among Belgians. Adds "Belgian Socialist Party in stating this remains ready as in past to examine any solution which, excluding return of Leopold III to throne, would contribute to easing of tension in country". (Latter refers to Spaaks suggestion February for a "national solution" whereby King would return honorably but in order to abdicate).

Liberal party

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2. f 396, March 14, 4 p.m. from Brussels

Liberal Party leaders meeting this afternoon in effort to determine their future course of action.

MURPHY

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